

TESTIMONIALS

IN FAVOR OF

The Rev. John E. Rae,

CANDIDATE FOR THE

CHAIR OF HEBREW,

Biblical Criticism and Church History,

IN THE

UNIVERSITY OF QUEEN'S COLLEGE,

KINGSTON, CANADA WEST.

Printed by order of the Board of Trustees, 4th June, 1857.

JAMES M. CREIGHTON, PRINTER.

1857.

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From the Rev. Duncan H. Weir, A. M.,
Professor of Oriental Languages, Glasgow College.

GLASGOW COLLEGE, APRIL 8th, 1857.

I have much pleasure in bearing my testimony to the merits of the Rev. John Ellis Rae. He attended the Junior Hebrew Class during Session 1851-'2, and deservedly obtained the highest honors. The vote of the Class assigned to him the first place among his fellow-students, and in addition to this, a prize was awarded to him by myself, for excelling at a private Examination conducted in writing on the business of the Class. As Mr. Rae attended only my Junior Class, of course I cannot speak so decidedly of his merits, as I should have been able to do had I been associated with him for a longer period. Yet, I can say without hesitation, that during the Session of his attendance here, he made excellent progress in the study of Hebrew, and displayed an amount of talent and energy, which cannot but command success in any sphere of labour.

DUNCAN H. WEIR.
Professor of Oriental Languages.

From the Rev. James Milroy, A. M., Dregghorn.

DREGGHORN, APRIL 1st, 1857.

Having been asked by the Rev. John Ellis Rae, who is a candidate for the vacant Chair of Hebrew and Biblical Criticism, in Queen's College, Canada, to give my opinion as to his fitness for the appointment, I avail myself of the liberty to do so. A Professor of Hebrew and Biblical Criticism, if equal to the requirements of his situation, must, in addition to a thorough knowledge of Biblical Hebrew, possess an acquaintance with the cognate dialects, Chaldee, Syriac, and Arabic. As a proof of Mr. Rae's proficiency in these tongues, I think it right to mention that both in Edinburgh and Glasgow, while studying at the Universities there, he carried off the highest honors for distinguished attainments in Semitic literature. Since then Mr. Rae, as I can bear witness from long personal acquaintance with him, has continued to cultivate the study of these languages with great zeal.

From all that I know of him, both as a scholar and a Minister of the Gospel, I should be delighted to hear that he has been successful in his application. I should certainly be surprised if any candidate for the vacant Chair be found to possess more merit than Mr. Rae; and I am of opinion that if Mr. Rae were elected to this situation, which he is undoubtedly qualified to fill, he would give the utmost satisfaction to our Colonial Students.

JAMES MILROY, A. M.,
Assistant and Successor, Parish of Dregghorn, Ayrshire.

From the Rev. Andrew Wilson, A. M., Lochgelly, Fife.

LOCHGELLY, APRIL 11th, 1857.

MY DEAR SIR,

I think you do right in applying for the Hebrew Chair in Canada. Your long experience in teaching, your skill in communicating instruction, your gentlemanly bearing, and the power which you possess of commanding the respect and securing the affections of the young, as well as your high scholarly attainments, particularly your acquaintance with the Scriptures in the original languages, and your knowledge of the Hebrew and other Semitic tongues, all concur to recommend you as a person eminently qualified for the office. I hope you will be successful in your application, and if so, I feel sure that by God's blessing, you will do good service to the Church.

I am little known in high quarters, and my testimony is of comparatively little value. Such as it is, it is founded on an intimate friendship of now eight years standing; and if you think it can serve you, make what use of it you may see fit.

I remain,
My dear sir,
Yours sincerely,

ANDREW WILSON.

The Rev. John E. Rae, Belford.

From Professor Liston, Edinburgh University.

ELM COTTAGE WEST, WHITE HOUSE GARDENS, }
Edinburgh, 16th April, 1857.

DEAR SIR,

I beg to acknowledge the receipt yesterday of your note of the 13th inst., and the enclosed copies of two certificates, in regard to your fitness for the office of Professor of Hebrew, &c., in Queen's College, Canada. The class certificate which you received from me for your attendance on the Senior Hebrew in the College here in Session 1852-'3, should testify to the distinction with which your studies were prosecuted during the time you were under my instruction. You were awarded a prize for proficiency, and read Arabic with approbation, as extra study; whilst your appearances in the Class were always such as to impress me with the idea of the accuracy, as well as fulness of your knowledge in the subjects of your studies.

Your acquirements in the Oriental Languages, I have no hesitation in expressing an opinion, are quite sufficient to qualify you for the office which you seek, so far as this branch of learning is concerned, which combined with your practical acquaintance in the art of imparting knowledge, must render you well qualified for the situation. With every good wish for your success in the object of your pursuit,

I remain,
Dear sir,
Very truly yours,

D. LISTON.

From Dr. Reid,

Of the Edinburgh Institution, Hill Street, Edinburgh.

EDINBURGH, DECEMBER 27, 1848.

I HAVE the utmost confidence in recommending Mr. John E. Rae as a Teacher of the Young. He officiated as my assistant in the Circus Place School for several years, with great acceptance both to his pupils and to their parents; and, during a recent illness, which laid me aside from my professional duties for six weeks, he conducted my public and private classes to my entire satisfaction.

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MR. JOHN E. RAE at my Academy, an could have discharg tion of the parents

Mr. Rae teaches with vigour and judgment, and in managing a class, combines firmness with kindness. He is well informed, and communicates knowledge with readiness. He teaches his pupils to read well, to understand what they read, and, when they are sufficiently advanced to practise English Composition, to express their thoughts with accuracy and taste. All these qualifications, combined with his experience in public and private tuition, cannot fail to make his services as a teacher of English an acquisition to any School.

57 NORTHUMBERLAND STREET,
February 4, 1858.

To the foregoing Testimonial, I have to add, that since October last Mr. Rae has had charge of my boarders in the evening, and has assisted them in the preparation of their lessons in English Literature, History, Geography, French, German, Latin, Greek, and Mathematics, which he has done entirely to my satisfaction, and to the manifest improvement of the young gentlemen. I have also been looking forward with no little expectation to having the benefit of Mr. Rae's assistance in the Edinburgh Institution after the beginning of March. In this expectation I shall be disappointed if he succeed in his present application; but I do not the less wish him success on that account; because, useful, responsible, and honorable as the situation is to which he aspires, it is one for which I believe him to be eminently qualified.

ALEX. REID.

From Andrew Musgrave, Esq.,
Rector of the Circus Place School.

EDINBURGH, 28th DECEMBER, 1848.

I HAVE for many years been intimately acquainted with Mr. John E. Rae, and have marked with very great pleasure his progress, both as a student and a teacher.

He is possessed of that manner (a somewhat rare one) which engages the affections, and at the same time stimulates the exertions of his pupils, while the various acquirements assist him in throwing light upon every subject that may occupy their minds. I am persuaded that he will hold, as a Teacher of English, a high position in any Academy with which he may be connected.

From what I know of him in all the relations of life, he is a gentleman whom all his friends can recommend with full confidence; they being aware, as I am, that he will realize all that it is hoped of him in after life.

CIRCUS PLACE SCHOOL, EDINBURGH, FEB. 5. 1858.

I now beg to add to my former testimonial of 1848, that my impression of Mr. J. E. Rae, as a teacher, has been fully confirmed; that he has since that period profited by his experience; that he has directed older pupils of both sexes to proper subjects for improving their mental powers; and that I think him well qualified for the situation of Rector of the Normal School.

ANDREW MUSGRAVE.

From Mrs. Sinclair,
Select Academy for Young Ladies, 57 Great King Street, Edinburgh.

EDINBURGH, 29th DECEMBER, 1848.

MR. JOHN E. RAE has been for five years engaged as Head English Master at my Academy, and I have the greatest pleasure in stating that no master could have discharged the duties more efficiently, and to the perfect satisfaction of the parents and friends of the numerous young ladies he has instructed.

I consider Mr. Rae a teacher of the highest ability, combining the happy art of interesting his pupils in their studies, and at the same time gaining their esteem and regard. It will be with sincere regret I shall part with him, but he must carry with him the best wishes and regards of both his employers and pupils, and I most sincerely hope he will meet with that success and prosperity which he so highly merits.

ARABELLA SINCLAIR.

From Dr. Adam Hunter.

18 ABERCROMBY PLACE, EDINBURGH,
29th DECEMBER, 1848.

It affords me very sincere pleasure to bear my humble testimony in favor of Mr. John E. Rae as a candidate for the office of English master of the Academy of Dumfries.

This step I take on well-grounded principles, as I have known Mr. Rae for many years past in his capacity of private tutor, the duties of which he appeared to me to discharge with so much zeal and judgment, that I was led to request, and considered myself fortunate when I secured, his valuable services for the private tuition of my son during this winter.

As one of the Directors of the Circus Place School of Edinburgh, I also know that Mr. Rae has had the important duties of the Rector's classes devolved upon him, during the severe illness of his friend Dr. Reid; and in the discharge of these duties, I believe Mr. Rae has exhibited much talent and practical experience as a teacher. On the whole, I beg to state it as my opinion, that Mr. Rae possesses talents of the highest order, exhibits much zeal and unwearied patience in directing the young mind, along with which there is combined such an amount of practical experience as a teacher, as eminently qualify him for the office to which he aspires.

ADAM HUNTER, M. D.

From Miss Williamson,

Ladies' Establishment, Banff.

BANFF, 3rd FEBRUARY, 1853.

MR. JOHN E. RAE was engaged for upwards of two years as Teacher of English Literature, Elocution, Geography and Composition in my Establishment, and I have great pleasure in expressing my satisfaction with the manner in which he fulfilled the duties of his situation, and in bearing testimony to the rapid progress which the young ladies made under his tuition.

I consider him highly qualified by his abilities and information, to afford instruction in the various branches referred to, and his method of teaching is well calculated to facilitate the acquisition of knowledge by his pupils.

With great kindness of manner, and exemplary patience, he combines proper firmness and decision, and while in my Establishment, he shewed himself a most conscientious and painstaking teacher, earnestly desirous not only for the intellectual advancement, but also for the moral and religious improvement of his pupils.

MARY WILLIAMSON.

From Mr. Jas. Burns, Teacher, Circus Place School.

EDINBURGH, 29th December, 1848.

I have much pleasure in stating, that I have known Mr. John E. Rae for a considerable period. He acted as my assistant in Circus Place School for some time, and I was highly pleased with the manner in which he discharged his duties. He has good talents, and an excellent accent, and his manners are

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pleasing and gentlemanly. As a teacher he is active and energetic, and possesses those habits of order and industrious application, without which talents and acquirements are vain.

I therefore consider Mr. Rae as admirably qualified for the situation for which he is now a candidate, and I shall rejoice to hear of his success.

JAMES BURNS.

From the Rev. John Murray,

Minister of Morton.

MORTON MANSE, 30th December, 1848.

Mr. John E. Rae, a native of this parish, has been known to me for a number of years, and from all that I have seen and heard of him, I believe him to be a young man of excellent talents, varied accomplishments, and good character. His appearance and manners are both in his favour; and I should think him a person exceedingly likely to give much satisfaction in any situation which he may be called to fill as an instructor of youth.

JOHN MURRAY.

From the Rev. A. McNaughton, D.D., Lesmahagow.

MANSE OF LESMAHAGOW, 4th February, 1853.

I was introduced to Mr. John E. Rae about three years ago, on the day of his brother's induction into the parish of Avondale, and since that time I have met him frequently, both in his brother's manse and in my own. On all these occasions Mr. Rae conversed with me very frankly and unreservedly on a vast variety of topics connected with theology, science, and general literature. On some of these my own knowledge was too superficial to form an accurate estimate of his. But on such of them as I had fully studied, I was much struck with his ripe judgment, his acute discrimination, his wide range of reading, and his ready eloquence in embodying his ideas in appropriate language. As a teacher, he has had much experience in more than one seminary of a high character; and though I cannot from personal knowledge speak of his qualifications in this department, I understand that they every way correspond to his high mental powers and extensive acquirements. In these circumstances, I would, on public as well as private grounds, rejoice to see him at the head of the Edinburgh Normal Institution; and I wish him every success in his canvass for that important and responsible office.

ALLAN McNAUGHTON, D.D.,

Minister of Lesmahagow, I. Charge.

From the Rev. H. Dewar, Stonehouse.

STONEHOUSE MANSE, 4th February, 1853.

With Mr. John E. Rae I am well and intimately acquainted. Having lived in my immediate neighbourhood a great part of last year, I had occasion to see him often, and to have him much with me. The result of this intimacy is, that I have formed the very highest opinion both of his talents and also of his attainments—especially of his attainments as a scholar, as well as in general literature. In that department of scholarship which stands connected with educational training, I have met with few that are his equals. I remember well one occasion, on which I listened with the greatest delight to the skill and tact which he manifested in examining a young man on his qualifications as a candidate for a parochial school. The result was most successful. I may also mention, that it is to him I am in a great measure indebted for a very excellent appointment of the kind which took place in my own parish in the course of the year.

Besides being an accomplished scholar himself, and an excellent judge of scholarship in others, Mr. Rae is in every way a most agreeable person to meet with in private life; and as for his general deportment, it is, so far as I have ever heard, exactly what becomes him as a teacher of youth and a student in divinity.

HUGH DEWAR,
Minister of Stonehouse.

From the Rev. David Smith,
Minister, Tillicoultry, near Alloa.

TILLICOULTRY MANSE, 29th DECEMBER, 1848.

I HEREBY certify that I have known Mr. John E. Rae from his boyhood, and have had the best opportunities of learning from the most satisfactory sources, what is the opinion entertained by the most competent judges of his talents and attainments. He was educated at the parish school of Morton, and even at a very early age manifested talents decidedly superior. He afterwards went to study in Edinburgh University, where his progress, I have reason to know, was highly creditable and satisfactory. He has also for the last nine or ten years been employed in teaching, and with much success. Indeed, he has enjoyed greater advantages in this respect, than fall to the lot of young men from the country, having both had access to the classes, and taught for some years under the eye of Dr. Reid, the very able and respected Rector of Circus Place Institution. I therefore look upon Mr. Rae's qualifications as of quite a superior order; and possessing as he does, much acuteness and power, and daily witnessing for years past the best and most approved methods of teaching in Edinburgh, I am quite satisfied that a provincial Academy would be a great gainer by enjoying the services of one so thoroughly qualified.

I may add, that he has always appeared to me to be possessed of amiable dispositions, well calculated to win the affections, as he has firmness to secure the respect, of children.

DAVID SMITH.

From John Scott, Esq.,
Lecturer on Natural Philosophy and Mathematics, Glasgow.

GLASGOW, 4th FEBRUARY, 1853.

It gives me great pleasure to testify to the talents and acquirements of Mr. John E. Rae. In addition to superior attainments in Ancient and Modern Literature, he has always sustained the character of an eminently successful teacher. But the relation in which we stood to each other as colleagues in the Banff Academy some years ago, enables me to speak with equal confidence of his amiable, obliging, and gentle disposition, combined with a strong sense of propriety and gentlemanly feeling. Whilst together, I ever found him ready to sacrifice personal interest to the general well-being of the Institution, and the comfort of his colleagues; and the recollection of our united and harmonious exertions has ever since made me cherish towards him sentiments of the strongest regard. I have repeatedly been present when Mr. Rae was conducting his classes, and in every instance the energy of his manner, clearness and simplicity of his illustrations, as well as the aptitude and proficiency of his pupils, shewed the singular power which he possesses, of communicating his own ideas to the minds of others. Besides, the natural firmness of his character, quickness of perception, and habits of order, enable him to maintain the most perfect authority, softened with a mildness of manner, which gains the affection and secures the lasting esteem of those under his care.

Mr. Rae's scholarship and extensive experience, his acquaintance with the different systems of tuition, and his uniformly cheerful and benevolent disposition, point him out as a gentleman remarkably well fitted to occupy the highest place in one of the most distinguished of our Educational Institutions.

JOHN SCOTT.

*Classical Master,
Glasgow.*

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From Alexander Richardson, Esq.,

Classical Master, Patrick Academy, Lecturer on Logic in the Athenæum, Glasgow, and Author of several articles on Education.

GLASGOW, 5th FEBRUARY, 1853.

I HAVE been much pleased to hear that Mr. John E. Rae is a candidate for the vacant Rectorship of the Edinburgh Normal School. An intimacy of thirteen years has convinced me of his qualifications for so arduous and responsible a post, and I shall be truly glad to find him successful in his application. It may be proper to specify some reasons for my high estimate of Mr. Rae's professional endowments.

First, He has been a distinguished student for an unusually lengthened curriculum of study in three Faculties in the Universities of Edinburgh and Glasgow; his honours in his various classes will be duly attested by the eminent and trustworthy Professors, whose instructions he has diligently improved, so that I need not dwell on this head. Although my own Professional duties have brought me into contact with many of the most accomplished Educationists of Great Britain, I have known none whose attainments were at once so high, elegant, and varied, as those of Mr. Rae.

Secondly, He has reaped the fruits of a protracted and extensive experience in almost every department of tuition. Commencing as a private tutor in families whose sons were attending the highest classes in the Edinburgh Academy, he next acted as assistant to Dr. Reid in the Circus Place School, and, lastly, became English Master in Banff Academy, where his career was most honourable and beneficial. Owing to my residence in Aberdeen during his incumbency in Banff, I deem it right to challenge special attention to what I know to be the facts connected with his labours in that ancient Institution. Prior to his appointment, the classes had greatly declined, and discipline and education had reached a very low ebb. By his firmness, prudence, and ability, Mr. Rae succeeded in effecting an important change; order was restored, the pupils increased, and the inhabitants rejoiced in the manifest improvements. When Mr. Rae saw it to be expedient to resume his Theological studies, he left Banff amid the deep regret of the community.

Thirdly, As this testimonial is written for a special purpose, I may be permitted to remark Mr. Rae's peculiar fitness for the promotion to which he aspires. With enlightened views of general education, great scholastic eminence, and a wide and well-tested experience, he combines great moral worth, unquestioned uprightness of character, uniform energy of action, unfeigned kindness of temper, and that becoming dignity of demeanour which could not fail to inspire respect and attachment in the young men, whose prospective operations and ultimate success in life are so mainly determined by the influences to which they are subjected in the Normal School. While I cannot hazard the prediction that Mr. Rae will fulfil all the requirements of the Educational Committee, I can honestly declare that I know no man whom I could so confidently recommend as an able, zealous, and conscientious Rector.

A. RICHARDSON.

From the Rev. G. Lang, Glassford.

GLASSFORD MANSE, 5th FEB., 1853.

It gives me much pleasure to bear my testimony to the excellent character and superior attainments of Mr. John E. Rae. Since I had the happiness of becoming acquainted with him, I know that he distinguished himself while attending the University of Glasgow, and had several prizes awarded to him by his fellow students. For fully two years past, I have had a good deal of personal intercourse with him, and have found him possessed of the most amiable dispositions, gentle but firm, warm in his affections, kind and obliging in his manners, apt to, and happy in communicating instruction to the young, edifying in his conversation, systematical in his arrangements, imbued with deep

piety, and exemplary in his deportment. I have the fullest confidence, that whatever department of Literature, Science, or Theology, he professes to teach, and may be called to undertake, he will give ample satisfaction to his employers.

GAVIN LANG,
Minister of Glasgow.

From William F. Lyon, Esq.,
West End Academy, Aberdeen.

ABERDEEN, 5th FEB., 1853.

It gives me much pleasure to bear testimony to the very high qualifications of Mr. Rae, for conducting any Educational Establishment, to the direction and superintendence of which he may be appointed.

No one, I think, could have any knowledge of Mr. Rae, without being convinced that his solid and extensive information, his agreeable and gentlemanly manners, and his high moral integrity, must make him a popular and very efficient teacher—and this opinion of Mr. Rae, which I had long formed, has been corroborated by the testimony of those who have had far more opportunities than I have been favored with, of forming a correct and decided judgment. Some of these are gentlemen who have been for many years engaged in teaching, while others who have been his pupils, have always spoken of him as one whose instructions had greatly benefited them, and whose religious and moral character had commanded their highest esteem.

From gentlemen connected with him during an attendance at the Edinburgh University, I understand that Mr. Rae was a hard and eminently successful student.

WILLIAM F. LYON.

From the Rev. Robert J. Johnstone,
Minister of Mary Hill.

THE MANSE, MARY HILL, FEB. 3rd, 1853.

The bearer, Mr. Rae, is, I understand, about to become a candidate for the situation of Rector in the Normal School of Edinburgh. I have the greatest pleasure in bearing my testimony to the high character and superior attainments of Mr. Rae as a gentleman and a scholar, as also to his peculiar fitness for the position to which he aspires. I have known Mr. Rae for ten years. As a student of the University of Edinburgh, he evinced his superiority in every class that he attended. His acquaintance with the languages, ancient and modern, is thorough and accurate. He has talents of the highest order. These have been cultivated by their successful application to those pursuits that have engaged the attention of scholars and men of science. As to his power of communicating instruction, and to his aptitude in governing young men attending such a seminary as that of the Normal School, I cannot speak in terms high enough in his praise. He is a gentleman in every sense of the word, and would do honour to the Institution of Edinburgh. And in promoting Mr. Rae to the Rectorship of the Normal School, the Directors would, I am convinced, be doing an act of which they would never repent; but on the contrary, I am sure Mr. Rae, by his suavity of manner, by his Christian deportment, if appointed Rector, would justify their choice, and not only maintain the school in its present efficiency, but by his well-known energy, raise it if possible still higher as a model school for the whole of Scotland.

R. J. JOHNSTONE.

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Mr. John E. Rae b situation of Teacher along with several trates of Banff to ass ly, we read Mr. Rae' we heard him exami with a very high opi the best methods o alysis and illustration in which he exhibit and a most accurate of the English lang him to the Magistra in securing. I had ing Mr. Rae teachin appointment at Ban vined that he was bearing, his kind a and felicity of illust in the lesson, and moral and religious and more than conf already mentioned, my opinion; I stat Banff, and what I state in addition, that, having had a that his abilities, a degree for the very

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**From the Rev. Andrew Wilson, A. M.,
Head Master of John Watson's Institution, Edinburgh.**

JOHN WATSON'S INSTITUTION, EDINBURGH, FEB. 7, 1853.

Mr. John E. Rae became known to me some years ago as a candidate for the situation of Teacher of English in the Banff Academy. On that occasion, I had, along with several neighboring clergymen, been requested by the Magistrates of Banff to assist them in the selection of a suitable person. Accordingly, we read Mr. Rae's testimonials, which appeared to us highly satisfactory; we heard him examine a class, which he did in such a manner as to impress us with a very high opinion of his aptitude to teach, and of his acquaintance with the best methods of tuition; and we prescribed to him as a subject for analysis and illustration, a very difficult passage in "Paradise Lost," an exercise in which he exhibited a most intimate acquaintance with English Literature, and a most accurate knowledge of the grammatical structure and peculiarities of the English language. We felt no difficulty, therefore, in recommending him to the Magistrates of Banff as one whose services they would be fortunate in securing. I had repeated opportunities of visiting the Academy, and of seeing Mr. Rae teaching during the twelve months immediately succeeding his appointment at Banff; and at every successive visit I was more and more convinced that he was an instructor of the very highest order. His gentlemanly bearing, his kind and cheerful, yet firm and energetic manner, his copiousness and felicity of illustration, the skill with which he seized upon the leading ideas in the lesson, and impressed them upon his pupils, and above all, the high moral and religious aims which he seemed ever to have in view, confirmed, and more than confirmed, the very high expectations which, on the grounds already mentioned, I had been led to form of Mr. Rae. Nor was I singular in my opinion; I state only what was the general feeling of the inhabitants of Banff, and what I know it continues to be up to the present moment. I may state in addition, that Mr. Rae is now one of my most intimate friends, and that, having had ample opportunities of forming my opinion of him, I believe that his abilities, attainments, character, and manners, fit him in no ordinary degree for the very important office to which he aspires.

ANDREW WILSON.

**From Charles B. Smith, Esq.,
Classical Master, Montrose Academy.**

THE ACADEMY, MONTROSE, FEB. 7, 1853.

Mr. John E. Rae has been long and intimately known to me, and I therefore feel perfect confidence in expressing an opinion of his fitness for the Rectorship of the Normal School.

From evidence which I have no doubt will now be supplied by Mr. Rae, it will be seen how comprehensive and complete has been his scholastic and academic training. A vigorous mind and studious habits have enabled him to reap the full advantage of his invaluable opportunities, so that he is now possessed of a scholarship and attainments rarely found united in a single individual, and still more rarely, though greatly needed, in one devoted to the scholastic profession.

Mr. Rae has had, moreover, ample and varied experience as a Teacher, and has always proved himself eminently effective and successful. I should not neglect to state, that Mr. Rae manifests on all occasions the habits and demeanor of a gentleman.

As an accomplished Scholar, a skilful Teacher, and a Christian gentleman, Mr. Rae's claims are, I think, entitled to the peculiarly favorable regard of the Directors of the Normal School.

CHARLES B. SMITH.

From John MacMillan, Esq., A.M., F.S.A., Scot.,
One of the Masters of the High School, Edinburgh.

HIGH SCHOOL, EDINBURGH, 1st JANUARY, 1849.

To the Patrons of the Dumfries Academy.

GENTLEMEN,—In consequence of the lamented death of Mr. James Grierson a vacancy has, I perceive, been made in the English department of your Academy, which it behoves you as patrons of the seminary efficiently to supply. Having (as is known to most of you) for many years had the honor to preside over a very important department in the Dumfries Academy, it will not, I am sure, be matter of surprise to any one, that I should now, as I have always done, take a deep interest in its affairs, and be sensibly alive to the character, both *moral and professional*, of those who aspire to fill the office of teacher in any of its departments. You will, no doubt, have numerous applicants for the situation, many of them, it may be, well fitted to perform the *routine* of duty of mere English, but I feel persuaded that few, indeed, if any of them, will individually unite in himself so many and varied attainments as my young friend, Mr. John E. Rae, to whose superior claims for your support, on the present occasion, I venture to solicit your very favorable consideration. Possessed of natural talents of a high order, which have for these last seven years been assiduously cultivated by a very *thorough* University education, Mr. Rae has besides had the rare advantage of long practising the art of teaching the English language in all its grades, from the junior to the Rector's class in the Circus Place School here, an Institution which has for many years been reckoned, and deservedly so, at the head of our English Schools in Scotland. From what I myself know of him, morally, intellectually, and professionally—from the character that he has earned for himself as an able *public* teacher, and as a judicious *private* tutor—and from his known prudence, equable temper, and gentlemanly manners, I have, on these grounds, the most perfect confidence in recommending Mr. Rae, in the strongest manner possible, as a gentleman qualified not only to sustain, but, if any one can, to advance the reputation of the English department of the Dumfries Academy.

HIGH SCHOOL, EDINBURGH, 8th FEBRUARY, 1853.

In reading over the foregoing Testimonial, granted to Mr. John E. Rae in 1849, I find no statement in it which I would wish either to retract or to modify. I still adhere to all that I then certified of him.

Although I have had but little personal intercourse with Mr. Rae since 1849, from his having, during the greater portion of the interval, been professionally employed in a distant county town, yet it consists with my knowledge, that, for upwards of two years, he discharged most efficiently and well all the duties of the English department in the Academy of Banff.

I feel very confident, then, that from his varied attainments, his long experience in teaching, and his other qualifications, both natural and acquired, Mr. Rae would, in the event of his appointment, prove a very suitable person to fill the office of Head Master of the Normal Seminary in connection with the Church of Scotland, for which, it seems, he is at present a Candidate.

JOHN MACMILLAN, M.A.

From George Ferguson, Esq., A.M.

Formerly one of the Masters of the Edinburgh Academy, now Professor of Humanity, King's College, Aberdeen.

KING'S COLLEGE, ABERDEEN, 30th DECEMBER, 1848.

I have much pleasure in expressing the high opinion which I entertain of Mr. John E. Rae as a public teacher. During a considerable portion of the time when he acted as assistant to Dr. Reid in the Circus Place School, Edin-

burgh, two of my days were spent in the opportunity of forming and communicating knowledge with the means of a teachers in Scotland. I received the qualified approval of the management of his classes in circumstances for which that experience which I had in a public department in a classical scholar, and of the ancient languages. From my own experience I consider myself justified in recommending Mr. Rae to the Academy, as a man, will fully maintain the office to which they preside.

Since the preceding of proving that he necessary for conducting his progress with his master in the Banff his classes were taken resignation was made. Though I have a dates for the Rector to state, that I believe of the office to which

I have known Mr. Rae and in my occasional vigor and activity only on professional grounds. He preached in my flying proofs of his The subject on which he heard very unsatisfactorily without much judgment. I have graced an Academic in arrangements same time so popular its commencement very mixed rural school soon be called to the scope for talents and

burgh, two of my daughters attended his class, and I had thereby a good opportunity of forming an estimate of his attainments, and of his powers of communicating knowledge. Besides this, my intimacy with Dr. Reid furnished me with the means of ascertaining the sentiments of one of the most successful teachers in Scotland; and I have often heard that gentleman express his unqualified approval of Mr. Rae's skill, judgment, energy, and success in the management of his classes. Mr. Rae has thus been placed in the most favorable circumstances for obtaining a knowledge of his profession, and of acquiring that experience which is of great value to a man placed at the head of any department in a public seminary. He has also the advantage of being a good classical scholar, and of having it in his power to bring a minute knowledge of the ancient languages to bear upon the illustration of his vernacular tongue. From my own experience, therefore, and from the testimony of Dr. Reid, I consider myself justified in recommending Mr. Rae to the patrons of the Dnmfries Academy, as a young man, who, if elected by them to the English department, will fully maintain the well-merited celebrity of the seminary over which they preside.

KING'S COLLEGE, ABERDEEN, FEB. 7, 1853.

Since the preceding certificate was written, Mr. Rae has had an opportunity of proving that he possesses the talents, attainments, and skill which are necessary for conducting with success a public seminary; and I have observed his progress with much interest. I have good reason to know that, as English master in the Banff Academy, his services were very highly appreciated; that his classes were taught with great spirit, energy, and efficiency; and that his resignation was much regretted by the community.

Though I have already expressed a favourable opinion of two of the candidates for the Rectorship of the Normal Institution, I consider it due to Mr. Rae to state, that I believe him to be, in every respect, well qualified for the duties of the office to which he aspires.

GEORGE FERGUSON.

From the Rev. Allan M'Naughton, D.D.,

Minister of First Charge, Leemahagow.

MANSE OF LEEHAGOW,
20th January, 1855.

I have known Mr. John E. Rae, Preacher of the Gospel, for several years; and in my occasional intercourse with him, have been much struck with the vigor and activity of his intellect, and the wide range of his information, not only on professional subjects, but in science, philosophy and general literature. He preached in my pulpit a few months ago, when he afforded me most gratifying proofs of his ability to turn his extensive acquirements to the best account. The subject on which he preached was a difficult one, on which I have read and heard very unsatisfactory discourses, and which no man could discuss well without much judgment and nice discrimination. Mr. Rae's discourse would have graced an Academical Chair. It was elegantly classical in diction, luminous in arrangement, and eloquent in illustration. Its structure was at the same time so popular and its elocution so vigorous and impressive, that from its commencement to its close it commanded the full attention of a large and very mixed rural congregation. I therefore fervently trust that Mr. Rae will soon be called to some appointment in the Church which will afford proper scope for talents so well calculated for extensive usefulness.

ALLAN M'NAUGHTON.

From the Rev. Peter MacMorland,
Minister of St. Luke's, Edinburgh.

EDINBURGH, 12th AUGUST, 1854.

I have much pleasure in complying with the request of Mr. John E. Rae, Preacher of the Gospel, to give him a Testimonial. My acquaintance with him has been only of short duration, but I have had an opportunity of hearing him preach in St. Luke's, when he kindly agreed to assist me. His discourse was good and full of promise, effect being given to it by his superior elocution, and his whole manner was impressive and becoming. I may mention that I thought the devotional part of the service very well conducted. From his high character as a private teacher in Edinburgh, and all that I have heard of him, I cherish the hope that he will make a useful and efficient minister in any sphere where he may be settled.

PETER MACMORLAND.

From the Rev. W. H. Gray,
Minister of Lady Yester's, Edinburgh.

23 MINTO STREET, March 14, 1855.

The Rev. John E. Rae became known to me about two years ago, as a Theological Student. I had the pleasure of conducting his presbyterial examination previous to his entering the Divinity Hall for the last year of his course. His appearance on that occasion was highly gratifying, and his talents and acquirements were shown to be of a high order. Mr. Rae has preached in my church, to the great satisfaction of my congregation. I was myself a hearer, and was very much pleased indeed with the matter of the discourse, the manner of its delivery, and the way in which the devotional exercises were conducted. I can have no hesitation, therefore, in recommending Mr. Rae as a Preacher likely to be very popular and useful in his ministrations, in any parish to which he may be appointed.

WILLIAM H. GRAY.

From the Rev. George H. Monilaws,
Minister of Peebles.

PEEBLES MANSE, 4th MARCH, 1855.

I have known the Rev. John E. Rae, Preacher of the Gospel, for some time. He is possessed of varied and extensive acquirements in literature and science. His personal piety, and devotedness to the important duties of his profession, are equally undoubted. He officiated for me in the Parish Church of Peebles, when I was confirmed in my previous estimate of his character, by the excellence of his public ministrations. Wherever his sphere as a Minister of Christ may be, he will prove a workman that needeth not to be ashamed. Mr. Rae possesses, in a great degree, the power of presenting Divine truth in such a manner as to instruct and impress all classes of his audience. His manners are those of a Christian gentleman, and his active habits must go far to ensure the practical discharge of all his duties.

GEORGE H. MONILAWS.

From the Rev. William Findlay,
Minister of Stirling.

MARCH 15, 1855.

I certify that I am acquainted with Mr. John E. Rae, Preacher of the Gospel, and that I have had the pleasure of hearing him preach, much to the satisfaction and edification of my congregation. His mind appears to me to be well stored

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with theological and general knowledge, acquired by long and diligent study, and extensive and careful reading. As a preacher, his discourses are perspicuously and judiciously arranged, neatly composed, decidedly evangelical in doctrine, and practical in their tendency. His manner is grave and becoming, and his voice full and commanding. I regard Mr. Rae, from his talents and acquirements, his amiable disposition, and upright conduct, as one who affords every promise of becoming a most efficient and useful Minister of the Gospel.

WILLIAM FINDLAY.

From the Rev. David Smith,
Minister of Tillcoutry.

TILLCOUNTRY MANSE,
March 14, 1855.

I have had the pleasure of being acquainted with the Rev. John E. Rae from his early boyhood. He is possessed of excellent natural talents, which he has cultivated with assiduous care, and the result is, that in point of thorough education, literary and theological attainments, and general information on all subjects expected in a clergyman, he has, I apprehend, not many superiors. He has paid a good deal of attention to the structure of the English language and English composition. His style is consequently very correct and elegant, while his elocution is superior to that of most of our young preachers. While tracing with much satisfaction his onward progress in life, and hearing of the flattering accounts of his general intelligence, as well as devotedness to the pursuits in which he has for some years been engaged, I had not till comparatively recently an opportunity of seeing so much of him as in his earlier years. I am glad to say, however, that the early promise he gave seems fully realized in maturer life. I have had pleasant intercourse with him in private, and his preaching seemed much appreciated by my people. I can with perfect confidence recommend Mr. Rae; and I have no doubt, both from his superior talents and extensive acquirements, his intimate acquaintance with the best mode of managing the business of a parish, and the interest he naturally takes in the young, and from his energy, activity, and perseverance, as well as excellent moral character, he will realize all I have said in his favour.

DAVID SMITH.

From the Rev. Andrew Bell, D.D.,
Minister of Linkithgow.

LINKITHGOW MANSE,
14th March, 1855.

I had lately the pleasure of making the acquaintance of the Rev. John E. Rae, Preacher of the Gospel, when he was so obliging as to come and officiate for me here while I was myself indisposed. It was not my good fortune to hear him preach, but the concurrent testimony of many of my congregation, on whose judgment I can rely, has satisfied me that he is a sound, able, effective, and popular preacher of the Word: and I beg to add, that the conversation I had with him during the two days he spent with me, have led me to the conclusion, that, as regards both tone of mind, information, and manner, he is eminently well qualified for discharging the duties of a Parish Minister.

ANDREW BELL, D.D.

From the Rev. David Brown,
Minister of St. Bernard's Parish, Edinburgh.

EDINBURGH, MARCH 17, 1855.

It gives me great pleasure to join my testimony to that of others in favor of the Rev. John E. Rae, who was lately licensed by the Presbytery of Edinburgh. With an intellect of a high order, he has had opportunities for improving it

above those of most young men, and of these he has made an excellent use. In addition to his professional attainments, he has made himself extensively conversant with literature, and with several branches of science; and, besides the other advantages of these accomplishments, he is thus enabled to throw a greater interest than ordinary into his illustrations of Scripture truth. He has preached twice in my church, and although I was absent on both occasions, I am happy to say that his preaching was highly appreciated by all classes of the congregation. It was described to me by those whose opinion I value, as being strictly evangelical, giving abundant evidence that the preacher thinks out the subject for himself, as being eminently practical, and equally characterized by elegance and simplicity, while the delivery is such as completely to sustain the attention of the audience. This account is no more than I would have been prepared to expect from Mr. Rae from my personal acquaintance with him. In private intercourse I have always found him frank, kindly, and affectionate. I am confident that, under God's blessing, he will be a most useful and acceptable Minister of the Gospel. With his many and various resources, his practical turn of mind, and his warmth and earnestness, I expect to hear most favourably of his ministry wherever, in Divine Providence, he may be called to labour.

DAVID BROWN.

From the Rev. William Glover, D.D.,

Minister of Greenside Parish, Edinburgh.

EDINBURGH, 19th MARCH, 1855.

I have much pleasure in certifying that I have for several years been well acquainted with Mr John F. Rae, Preacher of the Gospel, and that I have been led to form a very favourable opinion indeed of his character, qualifications, and attainments. His natural powers, which are of a superior order, have been cultivated with great diligence and success. As the result of having been zealously engaged in the culture of other minds, his own acquirements in literature and general knowledge are exact, varied, and extensive; and on the most important of all subjects, his views appear to me at once clear, consistent, and evangelical. I can also with great pleasure bear testimony to his excellent character, and his most consistent and exemplary deportment; and though I have not yet had the pleasure of hearing him preach, yet, from all that I know of his sterling integrity, his unaffected piety, his kindness of disposition, and his habits of unwearied activity, I cherish the confident assurance, that when called to the sacred office, he will not disappoint the expectations of those who know him, but will prove, by the Divine blessing, an able, and faithful, and successful Minister of the Gospel.

WILLIAM GLOVER, D.D.